

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the ancestor application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~providing a program guide of access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to create a custom channel by selecting including at least one television program selected from the television programming from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected program;~~

~~receiving at the broker input from the customer creating the custom channel input from the customer including the selected program and the specified viewing time;~~

~~determining whether to include the selected program in the custom channel;~~

~~obtaining programs for the custom channel; and~~

~~transmitting from the broker to the customer the custom channel created by the customer and including the at least one television program.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~allowing a customer to create more than one custom channel;~~

~~obtaining programs for the more than one custom channel; and~~

~~simultaneously transmitting to the customer the more than one custom channel and at least one other custom channel, the at least one other custom channel including at least one television program selected from the television programming.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to include the selected program in the custom channel comprises:

determining whether the selected program conflicts in viewing time with a program previously added to the custom channel;

if the selected program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added program.

adding the selected program to the custom channel if it is determined to record the selected program or the previously added program for viewing by the customer at a different time, to provide simultaneous access to the selected program and the previously added program, or to delete the previously added program from the custom channel, and otherwise
not including the selected program in the custom channel; and
adding the selected program to the custom channel if the selected program does conflicts in viewing time with the previously added program.
further comprising:
pre-recording a television program; and
transmitting to the customer the custom channel including the pre-recorded television program.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising wherein providing access to television programming comprises providing the customer at least one access code to a program in the program guide, the at least access code including an access level to the customer,

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein obtaining programs for the custom channel comprises at least one of:
pre-recording a program in the custom channel if the customer desires to view the program at a later time;
requesting and obtaining a program in the custom channel from a content provider; or
generating a program in the custom channel, further comprising assigning an access level to the at least one access code.

6-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1, wherein transmitting to the customer the custom channel ~~further comprising~~ comprises encrypting a signal comprising the ~~at least one custom channel~~ data before transmitting the custom channel to the customer.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1, further comprising ~~pre-recording~~ a television program and including the ~~pre-recorded television program~~ in the ~~at least one custom channel~~ providing a user interface for a customer to select programs in the program guide to be included in the custom channel.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 15~~ claim 14, wherein the user interface comprises a voice-based natural language dialog system, ~~further comprising~~: selecting from the ~~program guide~~ of available television programming a second television program; selecting a second time for viewing the second television program, the second time delayed relative to a scheduled broadcast time for the second television program; and adding the second television program and the second time to the custom channel.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 15~~ claim 14, wherein the user interface comprises a web-based user interface, ~~further comprising~~: selecting from the ~~program guide~~ of available television programming a second television program; selecting a second time for viewing the second television program at least partially coinciding with the selected time for viewing the ~~at least one selected television program~~; and

~~adding the second television program and the second time to another custom channel.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a receiver to receive television programming from at least one provider;
a customer interface providing to provide a program guide of access to television programming to enable a customer or a broker to create a custom channel by selecting including at least one television program selected from the television programming from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected program;
a controller to determine whether to include the selected program in the custom channel, and to obtain data for the custom channel; and
a transmitter coupled to the receiver, the transmitter to transmit ~~from the broker to the customer the custom channel created by the customer, the custom channel including the at least one television program.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising a database memory to store custom channel data identifying television programs comprising the custom channel.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the customer interface including one of an electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based electronic program guide.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a video storage medium coupled to the receiver, the video storage medium to receive and store television programming.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising an encryption device coupled to the transmitter, the encryption device to encrypt a signal comprising the custom channel data prior to transmitting prior to transmission to the customer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

24-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 24~~ ~~claim 18~~, wherein the controller adds the selected program to the custom channel if the selected program does not conflict in viewing time with a program previously added to the custom channel, or if the selected program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added program but if it is determined to record the selected program or the previously added program for viewing by the customer at a different time, to provide simultaneous access to the selected program and the previously added program, or to delete the previously added program from the custom channel.

~~the customer interface including one of an electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based electronic program guide.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 24~~ ~~claim 18~~, wherein the controller obtains data for the custom channel by at least one of:

pre-recording a program in the custom channel if the customer desires to view the program at a later time;

requesting and obtaining a program in the custom channel from a content provider; or

generating a program in the custom channel, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code

28. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine accessible medium, said machine accessible medium providing comprising instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations including:

providing a program guide of access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to create a custom channel by selecting including at least one television program selected from the television programming from the program guide and by specifying a viewing time for the selected program;
receiving input from the customer including the selected program and the specified viewing time;
determining whether to include the selected program in the custom channel;
obtaining programs for the custom channel; and
transmitting from the broker to the customer the custom channel created by the customer and including the at least one television program.

29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) The article of claim 28, said operations further include:

allowing a customer to create more than one custom channel;
obtaining programs for the more than one custom channel; and
simultaneously transmitting to the customer the more than one custom channel.

33. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein determining whether to include the selected program in the custom channel comprises:

determining whether the selected program conflicts in viewing time with a program previously added to the custom channel;
if the selected program conflicts in viewing time with the previously added program,

adding the selected program to the custom channel if it is determined to record the selected program or the previously added program for viewing by the customer at a different time, to provide simultaneous access to the selected program and the previously added program, or to delete the previously added program from the custom channel, and otherwise
not including the selected program in the custom channel; and

adding the selected program to the custom channel if the selected program does conflicts in viewing time with the previously added program.

34. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein obtaining programs for the custom channel comprises at least one of:

pre-recording a program in the custom channel if the customer desires to view the program at a later time;

requesting and obtaining a program in the custom channel from a content provider; or

generating a program in the custom channel.

35. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein transmitting to the customer the custom channel comprises encrypting data before transmitting the custom channel to the customer.

36. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein the operations further include providing a user interface for a customer to select programs in the program guide to be included in the custom channel, the user interface comprising a voice-based natural language dialog system.